

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 141

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for issuance of a license to practice orthotics and prosthetics.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 605.252(b) and (c), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The requirements for a license established by board rule must include the requirement that the applicant hold:

(1) a bachelor's or graduate degree in orthotics and prosthetics from:

(A) an education program recognized and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs that is offered at an institution of higher education; or

(B) a practitioner education program that has education standards that are equivalent to or exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

(2) a bachelor's degree in another subject and an orthotic or prosthetic certificate issued by a practitioner education program:

(A) recognized and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

(B) that has education standards that are

1 equivalent to or exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on  
2 Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

3 (c) To meet the clinical residency requirements for a  
4 license, the applicant must complete a a [~~at least 1,900 hours of~~]  
5 professional clinical residency that meets the requirements  
6 established by board rule [~~under the direct supervision of a~~  
7 ~~licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, or a licensed~~  
8 ~~prosthetist orthotist in the discipline for which licensure is~~  
9 ~~sought~~].

10 SECTION 2. Section 605.258(a), Occupations Code, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 (a) The board may issue a student registration certificate  
13 to an individual who is working toward fulfilling the requirements  
14 for a license as an orthotist, prosthetist, or prosthetist  
15 orthotist and:

16 (1) holds either:

17 (A) [~~(1)~~] a bachelor's or graduate degree in  
18 orthotics and prosthetics from:

19 (i) [~~(A)~~] an education program recognized  
20 and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health  
21 Education Programs that is offered at an institution of higher  
22 education; or

23 (ii) [~~(B)~~] a practitioner education  
24 program that has education standards that are equivalent to or  
25 exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of  
26 Allied Health Education Programs; or

27 (B) [~~(2)~~] a bachelor's degree in another

1 subject and an orthotic or prosthetic certificate issued by a  
2 practitioner education program:

3 (i) [~~(A)~~] recognized and accredited by the  
4 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

5 (ii) [~~(B)~~] that has education standards  
6 that are equivalent to or exceed the standards adopted by the  
7 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

8 (2) is a student who:

9 (A) is currently enrolled in a graduate program  
10 in this state in orthotics and prosthetics that:

11 (i) is recognized and accredited by the  
12 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;  
13 and

14 (ii) incorporates a professional clinical  
15 residency that meets the requirements of rules adopted under  
16 Section 605.252(c); and

17 (B) submits to the board a written certification  
18 from the graduate program in which the student is enrolled that the  
19 student has successfully completed the academic prerequisites to  
20 enter a professional clinical residency.

21 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter  
22 605, Occupations Code, apply only to an application for a license or  
23 student registration certificate submitted to the Texas Board of  
24 Orthotics and Prosthetics on or after January 1, 2014. An  
25 application submitted before January 1, 2014, is governed by the  
26 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the  
27 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1           SECTION 4. The Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
2 shall adopt rules to implement the changes in law made by this Act  
3 not later than December 1, 2013.

4           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.